



A Warm Namaste

Obama Praises Dalai Lama at US Prayer Breakfast

President Barack Obama bows his head towards the Dalai Lama as he was recognized during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. The annual event brings together U.S. and international leaders from different parties and religions for an hour devoted to faith. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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US joins Europe in effort to end fighting in Ukraine



Oleksii Honcharenko, a member of the Ukrainian parliament, wearing a "God stop Putin" tie, holds a piece of shrapnel during a news conference with other members of the Ukrainian parliament in Washington, Feb. 5, 2015. As the delegation visited Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry joined the leaders of Germany and France in Kiev to bolster peace efforts against the intensifying fighting in Ukraine.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

MICHAEL R. GORDON
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KIEV, Ukraine - With fighting intensifying in eastern Ukraine and the White House weighing whether to send arms to bolster the government's forces, Western leaders embarked on a broad diplomatic effort Thursday aimed at ending

a conflict that has strained relations with Russia.

Yet, the prospects of achieving a new peace plan remained clouded by deep suspicions of Moscow, born of its history of dissembling about its intentions and operations in Ukraine, Western diplomats and Ukrainian officials said.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President François Hollande of France traveled to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, on Thursday for talks with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine, officials from the two countries said.

On Friday, Merkel and Hollande are to continue to

Moscow, to meet with President Vladimir Putin to discuss a new initiative from the Kremlin to end the fighting in Ukraine, which has killed more than 5,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands over the past year. Hollande said that he and Merkel would present an initiative to end

the fighting and guarantee the "full territorial integrity" of Ukraine. The German and French moves were announced as Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Kiev for high-level talks. Vice President Joe Biden prepared for parallel consultations on Friday with European leaders in Brussels. The deep Western distrust of Moscow has been heightened by what diplomats say is the Kremlin's role in the arming, financing and guiding of rebel separatists in the current surge in fighting in eastern Ukraine, even after helping forge a cease-fire in September. As it did in late summer, they say, the Kremlin is stepping in to end fighting that it instigated, but only after achieving its objective of expanding rebel-controlled territory.

Since the accord was signed, the Russian-backed separatists have taken control of about 200 square miles in the east, including the airport at Donetsk, and they are currently threatening Debaltsevo, a town that sits astride a critical rail hub.

Kerry did not mince words in a news conference Thursday in Kiev, laying blame for the renewed violence in eastern Ukraine at the door of the Kremlin. □

Obama poised to ask Congress for new war authorization

ANDREW TAYLOR
NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is poised in coming days to ask Congress for new authority to use U.S. military force against Islamic State militants, the White House said Thursday. But the top Republican in Congress warned it won't be easy to pass the measure and that it will be up to Obama to rally support from lawmakers and the public.

"His actions are going to be an important part of trying for us to get the votes to actually pass an authorization," Republican House Speaker John Boehner, said Thursday. "This is not

going to be an easy lift."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest responded that the administration is dedicated to getting a new authorization with support from Republicans and Democrats. That's even though Obama has argued new authorization isn't legally necessary and has been ordering airstrikes on militant strongholds in Iraq and Syria for months.

"The president believes it sends a very powerful signal to the American people, to our allies, and even to our enemies, that the United States of America is united behind this strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL," Earnest said, using an acronym for the

Islamic State group. "That across branches of government and even across political parties, even in this divided time in our nation's political history, at least, that Democrats and Republicans are committed to this very important task." Earnest declined to discuss specific provisions being discussed, such as how long the authorization will last, what geographical areas it will cover and whether it will allow for the possibility of ground troops. He said details are still being worked out with lawmakers from both parties, with the hopes of coming up with the authorizations can draw bipartisan support.

But top House Democrat

Nancy Pelosi said talks with the administration are focusing on a time frame of three years, while the other issues are still being worked out. Pelosi told journalists it will be a challenge for wary Democrats, the White House, and Republicans seeking a broader use of military force to forge an agreement, but that she ultimately expects one to be reached.

Obama has been relying on congressional authorizations that President George W. Bush used to justify military action after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Critics say the White House's use of post-Sept. 11 congressional authorizations is a legal stretch, at

best.

Pelosi said she hopes Congress will repeal the 2002 congressional authorization for the war in Iraq but retain the 2001 authorization for military action in Afghanistan. Earnest said the White House also supports repeal of the Iraq authorization replaced by the new authorization. The developments come after Islamic militants released a grisly video of the murder of a Jordanian Air Force pilot by burning him alive. Pelosi also said that the U.S. should "move quickly" to steer military aid to Jordan, which has begun a stepped-up campaign against the militants, including a series of air strikes in Syria. □

Obama praises Dalai Lama at US prayer breakfast

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama praised the Dalai Lama Thursday at a high-profile Washington breakfast, but did not hold a formal meeting with him, avoiding further tensions with China. Thursday's National Prayer Breakfast, a gathering of political and religious leaders, drew some 3,600 U.S. and international leaders and criticism from China, which considers the Dalai Lama a separatist because of his quest for greater Tibetan autonomy. Outside the hotel, hundreds of protesters gathered waving Tibetan flags. Obama offered a special welcome to a "good friend," the Dalai Lama, seated at a table in front of the dais among the audience of 3,600. Earlier Obama, seated at the head table, pressed his hands together in a prayer-like position and bowed his head toward the Dalai Lama, then gave him a wave and a broad smile.



Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Barack Obama, right, talks with the Dalai Lama during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. The annual event brings together U.S. and international leaders from different parties and religions for an hour devoted to faith.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The president called the Buddhist spiritual leader a "powerful example of what it means to practice compassion." It was the first time the presi-

dent and the Tibetan Buddhist leader attended the same public event, with China objecting to foreign leaders meeting with the Dalai Lama because of his

quest for greater Tibetan autonomy from Beijing. Obama's three previous meetings with the Dalai Lama have been private because of the sensitivity of

the situation.

In a show of White House support for the Dalai Lama, he was seated at a table with Valerie Jarrett, one of Obama's closest adviser. Actor Richard Gere, a friend and follower of the Dalai Lama, was also nearby.

The president departed the prayer breakfast without appearing to have any direct interaction with the Dalai Lama. His motorcade sped past hundreds of demonstrators beating drums and waving Tibetan flags under a heavy police presence.

The Dalai Lama, wrapping up a three-day visit to Washington, plans to speak later Thursday at a dialogue between Buddhists and Muslims on peaceful coexistence. Also expected are prominent American Muslims and a representative of Iraq's most prominent Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. □

3 US House Democrats to skip Netanyahu speech

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three prominent U.S. House Democrats are vowing to skip Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-

tanyahu's speech to Congress next month, saying they disapprove of House Speaker John Boehner's decision to invite the Israeli leader without consulting

President Barack Obama. Reps. John Lewis, G.K. Butterfield and Earl Blumenauer said they won't attend Netanyahu's March 3 speech.

The White House also hinted Thursday that Vice President Joe Biden may not attend Netanyahu's speech, which is expected to focus on Iran. Spokesman Josh Earnest said Biden takes "very seriously" his responsibilities as Senate president, including his ceremonial duty to attend joint sessions of Congress. However, Earnest noted that Biden missed a joint session in 2011 because he was traveling abroad. Earnest said the vice president's travel schedule for early March has not been finalized.

He told reporters that Obama "does believe it is up to individual members of Congress to make their own decision about whether or not to attend." Lewis, a hero of the civil rights movement, said Thursday that Boehner's unilateral invitation to Netanyahu was "an affront to the president and the State Department" that cannot be ignored. Butterfield, chairman of the Con-

gressional Black Caucus, said Thursday he was "very disappointed that the speaker would cause such a ruckus" among members of Congress. He called the speaker's actions "unprecedented."

Blumenauer, a well-known liberal views and advocate of alternative energy, called on Boehner last week to cancel the joint session with Netanyahu. If the speech goes forward, "I will refuse to be part of a reckless act of political grandstanding," Blumenauer said.

The U.S. Constitution vests the responsibility for foreign affairs in the president, Blumenauer said, adding that "it's deeply troubling that the speaker is willing to undercut diplomacy in exchange for theatrics on the House floor."

Butterfield also criticized Netanyahu, saying that by accepting Boehner's invitation without talking to Obama, the prime minister had "politicized" his visit to the United States. □



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Hackers access records for millions of Anthem customers



A man walks past health insurer Anthem's corporate headquarters in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. Hackers broke into the company's database storing information for about 80 million people in an attack bound to stoke fears many Americans have about the privacy of their most sensitive information. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Hackers broke into a health insurance database storing information for about 80 million people in an attack bound to stoke fears many Americans have about the privacy of their most sensitive information.

The attack on Blue Cross Blue Shield insurer Anthem could be a sign that hackers have shifted their focus away from retailers and toward other targets, cybersecurity experts say.

The nation's second-largest insurer said it has yet to find any evidence that medical information like insurance claims or test results was targeted or taken in a "very sophisticated" cyberattack that it discovered last week. It also said credit card information wasn't compromised, either.

But the hackers did gain access to names, birthdates, email address, employment details, Social Security numbers, incomes and street addresses of people who are

currently covered or have had coverage in the past. And the hackers may not be done with the insurer, as they look for fresh targets after previous ones like the retailers Target and Home Depot shore up their defenses. "To me, this is the next wave of where were going to see more and more attacks," said Mark Bower, a vice president with the cybersecurity firm Voltage Security. "Cybercrime is a business. The attackers will simply move to the next low-hanging fruit."

He said security practices in health care are not as mature as they are in other industries, and hackers have multiple ways to get into a health care system that links insurers, care providers, labs and other businesses that handle sensitive patient information.

Medical records can be sold to criminals who could construct billing and insurance scams involving fake medical centers or target patients for phone scams.

"That's the kind of sophis-

tication we have in cybercrime," Bower said. "We have networks of criminals who can use this data whenever it's available based on their skill set."

Medical data also can be used to extort patients, with the hacker demanding money to prevent the public release of sensitive information, said Eran Barak, CEO of another cybersecurity firm, Hexadite.

He added that the attack may have been a probe to test the insurer's defenses, with hackers planning to return for more information or installing malware that steals data.

The insurer said all of its product lines were affected. It sells mainly private individual and group health insurance, plans on the health care overhaul's public insurance exchanges and Medicare and Medicaid coverage. It also offers life insurance and dental and vision coverage.

Affected brands include Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia,

Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Amerigroup.

The federal government also is investigating whether the personal information of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries was stolen. Those government programs are a major business for Anthem.

An Anthem spokeswoman said Thursday the insurer was working with federal investigators to figure out who was behind the attack. They had not pinned down the

exact number of people affected. Anthem Inc., which recently changed its name from WellPoint, covers more than 37 million people in states that include California, New York and Georgia. This wasn't Anthem's first security breach.

In 2013, the insurer agreed to pay \$1.7 million to resolve allegations it left the information of more than 612,000 members available online because of inadequate safeguards. □

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America's trade deficit jumps 17.1 percent to \$46.6 billion

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit in December jumped to the highest level in more than two years as exports fell and Americans bought a record amount of imports — a potentially worrisome development that could weigh on overall economic growth.

The deficit jumped 17.1 percent to \$46.6 billion in December, resulting in the biggest imbalance since November 2012, the Commerce Department report-

ed Thursday. The widening trade gap reflected a drop in exports, which retreated 0.8 percent to \$194.9 billion. Meanwhile, imports soared 2.2 percent to \$241.4 billion.

Economists were split on the implications of the bigger-than-expected December trade deficit. The government estimated last week that the overall economy grew at a moderate 2.6 percent rate in the final three months of 2014 after turning in a sizzling 5 percent growth rate in the July-September period.



The MOL Competence, a 1036-foot long, 150-foot wide container ship carrying 45,000 tons of cargo, is moored at the TraPac Container Terminal in Jacksonville, Fla. The Commerce Department reported on the U.S. trade deficit for December on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.

(AP Photo/The Florida Times-Union, Bruce Lipsky)

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Markets, said he believed much of the December trade data was already reflected in the first GDP report released last week. But Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said she thought the trade gap numbers, along with weaker growth in business stockpiles, could trim as much as a 0.5 percentage point from the government's estimate. Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan, also took a dim view of the results. He is trimming his estimate of fourth quarter growth to just 2 percent, although he still expects a rebound to 3 percent growth in the current January-March quarter. "This is not good news for the final measure of eco-

nomical growth," Lee said in a research note.

The deficit for 2014 overall increased to \$505 billion, up 6 percent from the 2013 deficit of \$476.4 billion, the Commerce Department said. Economists expect the deficit to widen further in 2015 as strong growth in the United States boosts imports, while weak growth overseas and a rising dollar continue to depress exports.

The widening trade deficit comes at a time when the Obama administration is hoping to finally get Congress to approve the fast-track authority it needs to wrap up a major 12-nation trade agreement with Japan and other Pacific Rim countries known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The administration sees the trade deal as one of the ar-

reas where he may be able to find common ground with Republicans, who now for the first time in Obama's presidency control both houses of Congress.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said that U.S. exports had set a record for a fifth consecutive year — a fact that the administration plans to use to secure votes for the trade deal.

"These trade agreements will support the growth of jobs and the growth of middle class economics," she said in an interview. But critics hoping to block the administration's trade efforts in Congress pointed to the record level of imports and rising deficits with economic powers such as China and South Korea as proof that the U.S. push for liberalized trade is costing U.S. jobs. □

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US Financial Front:

America's jobless applications rise, but levels see job growth



Instructor Lavinda Young, left, helps Fabian Perez, center, and Lazaro Chaviano, right, with their resumes during a job fair at the Hospitality Institute, in Miami. The U.S. Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits for the week ending Jan. 24 on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

More people sought unemployment benefits last week, but the number of applicants remained near historic lows in a positive sign for job growth.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications rose 11,000 to a seasonally adjusted

278,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell 6,500 to 292,750. That average has plunged 15 percent over the past 12 months.

"The trend still shows improving labor market behavior," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

The weekly increase comes after applications

plummeted 42,000 in the prior week to 267,000. There has been volatility in recent reports due to the end of the holiday shopping season and the recent Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, when state unemployment offices were closed. The government tries to adjust for such seasonal patterns, but isn't always able to do so perfectly.

Weekly applications are a proxy for layoffs. The decline indicates that companies are keeping their workers and potentially looking to hire on the expectation that the economy will continue growing. The Friday employment report is expected to show that employers added 230,000 jobs in January, according to a survey by the data firm FactSet.

Nearly 3 million new jobs were created in 2014, as the unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent from 6.7 percent. But the increased demand for workers has yet to boost incomes by much. Average wages rose just 1.7 percent in 2014, essentially in line with inflation. Wage growth of 3.5 percent is consistent with a healthy economy. □



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US productivity falls at near 1.8% rate in fourth quarter

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. worker productivity went into reverse in the final three months of the year, while labor costs increased.

Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, fell at 1.8 percent rate in the fourth quarter after rising at a 3.7 percent rate in the third quarter, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

Labor costs increased at a 2.7 percent rate in the fourth quarter after having fallen at a 2.3 percent rate in the third quarter.

The drop in productivity and

rise in labor costs reflected the fact that the growth in overall output slowed in the fourth quarter.

Economists say quarterly changes in productivity and labor costs can swing sharply. They believe labor costs are still rising at slow levels that do not present a threat of higher inflation.

Last week, the government reported that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 2.6 percent in the October-December quarter, a sharp deceleration from a 5 percent growth rate in the July-September period. □

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American Living:

Funds pour in for US man who walks 21 miles to, from work

DETROIT (AP) — Hundreds of people have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to help a Detroit man who says he typically walks 21 miles to get to and

from work.

The Detroit Free Press reports that James Robertson rides buses part of the way to and from his factory job in suburban Rochester Hills.

But because they don't cover the whole route, he ends up walking about eight miles before his shift starts at 2 p.m. and 13 miles more when it's over at 10



James Robertson, 56, of Detroit, walks toward Woodward Avenue in Detroit to catch his morning bus to Somerset Collection in Troy before walking to his job at Schain Mold & Engineering in Rochester Hills. Getting to and from his factory job 23 miles away in Rochester Hills, he'll take a bus partway there and partway home and walk 21 miles according to the Detroit Free Press.

(AP Photo/Detroit Free Press, Ryan Garza)

p.m. Lately, he's been getting occasional rides from a banker who passes him walking every day and finally asked what he was doing.

After the newspaper wrote about the 56-year-old's situation over last weekend, multiple people started crowdfunding efforts to help him buy a car and pay for insurance. Some have offered to drive him for free and others have offered to buy or give him cars.

Robertson began making the daily trek to the factory where he molds parts after his car stopped working ten years ago and bus service was cut back. He's had perfect attendance for more than 12 years.

"I set our attendance standard by this man," said Todd Wilson, plant manager at Schain Mold & Engineering. "I say, if this man

can get here, walking all those miles through snow and rain, well I'll tell you, I have people in Pontiac 10 minutes away and they say they can't get here — bull!" Evan Leedy, a 19-year-old student at Wayne State University, read the story and started a GoFundMe site with the goal of raising \$5,000. As of Monday afternoon he had raised more than \$90,000.

Robertson said he was flattered by the attention and amazed strangers would step in to help him out.

Asked about a federal program newly available through Detroit's bus system that might pick him up at home and drop him off at his job, Robertson said, "I'd rather they spent that money on a 24-hour bus system, not on some little bus for me. This city needs buses going 24/7. □

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Jordan launches airstrikes after vowing harsh war on IS

K. LAUB

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) —

Dozens of Jordanian fighter jets bombed Islamic State training centers and weapons storage sites Thursday, intensifying attacks after the militants burned to death a captured Jordanian pilot.

As part of the new campaign, Jordan is also attacking targets in Iraq, said Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. Up to now, Jordan had struck IS targets in Syria, but not Iraq, as part of a U.S.-led military coalition. "We said we are going to take this all the way, we are going to go after them wherever they are and we're doing that," Judeh told Fox News.

Asked if Jordan was now carrying out attacks in both countries, he said: "That's right. Today more Syria than Iraq, but like I said it's an ongoing effort."



Jordanians chant slogans to show their support for the government against terror during a rally in Amman, Jordan, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. Jordanian warplanes bombed Islamic State targets on Thursday, state TV said, after Jordan's King Abdullah II vowed to wage a "harsh" war against the militants who control large areas of neighboring Syria and Iraq.

(AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

"They're in Iraq and they are in Syria and therefore you have to target them wherever they are," he added.

The militant group controls about one-third of each Syria and Iraq, both neighbors of Jordan.

In September, Jordan joined the U.S.-led military alliance that has been car-

rying out air strikes against the militants.

The Jordanian military said dozens of fighter jets were involved in Thursday's strikes on training centers and weapons storage sites. State TV showed footage of the attacks, including fighter jets taking off from an air base and bombs setting off large balls of fire

and smoke after impact. It showed Jordanian troops scribble messages in chalk on the missiles. "For you, the enemies of Islam," read one message.

The military's statement, read on state TV, was entitled, "This is the beginning and you will get to know the Jordanians" — an apparent warning to IS.

It said the strikes will continue "until we eliminate them."

Jordan's King Abdullah II was paying a condolence visit to the family of the

pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, in southern Jordan when the fighter jets roared overhead.

The king pointed upward, toward the planes, as he sat next to the pilot's father, Safi al-Kaseasbeh.

Al-Kaseasbeh told the assembled mourners that the planes had returned from strikes over Raqqa, the de facto capital of the militants' self-declared caliphate. His son had been captured near Raqqa when his F-16 fighter plane went down in December. □

Yemen:

Senior al-Qaida figure killed in drone strike

SHUAIB ALMOSAWA

ROD NORDLAND

© 2015 New York Times

SANAA, Yemen - A senior member of al-Qaida who had issued a statement saying the group had encouraged the terrorist attacks in Paris last month was killed in a drone strike Saturday, the militant group said Thursday. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula said that the drone strike, on Jan. 31, destroyed a car in Shabwah province, in southern Ye-

men, killing four of its members who were inside. One of them, the statement said, was Harith al-Nadhari, an ideologue who had praised the attack on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The group attributed the drone strike to the U.S. military.

The announcement was made by a Qaida member who acts as a media liaison for the militant group.

"These strikes came after the Houthis, who became

America's loyal partner in the south of the Arabian Peninsula, took full control under an American supervision and an international conspiracy," the statement said, referring to the Yemeni rebel group that has taken control of the capital. Houthi fighters forced the resignation of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi on Jan. 22 and have been negotiating with other political groups to form a new □

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Greek charm offensive hits a wall on visit to Berlin

GEIR MOULSON
NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A whistle-stop tour of European capitals netted Greece's finance

in the coming weeks. Barely 10 days after radical left-wing Syriza was swept to power in Athens, analysts expect a compromise over Greece's debts to emerge,

than a week took him to Paris, London, Rome and Frankfurt, came to an end with his visit Thursday to Berlin where he met with his counterpart, Wolfgang Schaeuble.

tral Bank to stop lending to Greek banks using the nation's junk-rated government bonds as collateral, the financial backdrop may in fact be slightly more precarious.

Though no one expected Varoufakis to talk Schaeuble into a wholesale overhaul of Greece's debt and austerity program, there were few signs that the two were positioned for a breakthrough any time soon. Schaeuble said he and Varoufakis "agreed to disagree" at their meeting in the German capital, and that a write-down, or haircut of Greece's debt, wasn't on the negotiating table.

"Greece belongs to the euro," Schaeuble said. "But we don't really agree on what we have to do now despite a very intense, open discussion."

Gary Jenkins, chief credit strategist at LNG Capital, said an eventual compromise is still the most likely outcome — although he did warn of a so-called "Grexit" by accident.

"In order to avoid a default and an exit from the eurozone, the Greek politicians

will have to moderate their position," he said.

Germany will be key on how discussions pan out over the coming weeks, including at next week's summit of European Union leaders in Brussels.

Germany's views matter as it is the biggest European contributor to Greece's five-year bailout program. Germany is a staunch proponent of the strict fiscal discipline that Greece has to impose in return for the rescue money that has prevented it going bankrupt. Still, the deep income and spending cuts hit the Greek economy hard. It's now around a quarter smaller than it was six years ago while unemployment, particularly among the young, is near record-high levels.

Varoufakis — who went out of his way to praise the veteran Schaeuble as "a European statesman for whom European unity is a lifelong project" — insisted that it's not Athens' intention to default on its debts and that it wants to carve out a new compromise deal that will be to the mutual benefit of Germany and Greece. □



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, left, and the Finance Minister of Greece, Yanis Varoufakis, right, address the media during a joint press conference as part of a meeting in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.
(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

minister few, if any, concessions over the country's debt — but the prevailing view in markets is that his anti-austerity government will reach agreement with its creditors

allowing it to remain a member of the 19-country eurozone. Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis' breathless dash across Europe, which in less

Despite his charm offensive, Varoufakis isn't returning home to Athens with anything tangible. And following a decision late Wednesday by the European Cen-

Hollande vows to defend France's republican ideals

DAN BILEFSKY
© 2015 New York Times

PARIS - President François Hollande of France on Thursday sought to reassure a nation still shaken by the recent terrorist attacks in and around Paris, saying that the country would not be cowed by terrorists and would defend its republican ideals of liberty and free expression against those who sought to undermine them.

Speaking at a news conference amid the gilded splendor of the Élysée Palace, Hollande said that France would fight Islamic radicalism, train imams and reinforce the curriculum in schools to help foster a sense of civic identity among all French people. He also pledged to ensure the security of the country's mosques.

Hollande said legislation aimed at updating the legal framework for intelligence and surveillance operations would be introduced in parliament in March.

"France was attacked in what it holds most sacred: freedom of expression, the republic and human equality," he said. "France reacted with dignity and pride. When the terrorists wanted to put it on its knees, it stood its ground. When the fanatics wanted to spread fear, it came together. When the extremists wanted to divide it, it stood as one." Hollande said the French notion of a secular state was "nonnegotiable," adding that "secularism is a guarantee for France" against internal and external threats and influences. □

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New Saudi King Salman makes early mark, reshapes policy team

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia's new monarch isn't wasting time.

Since assuming the throne Jan. 23, King Salman has elevated some of his closest relatives and sidelined previous power-brokers, tightened decision-making and promised lavish payouts designed to win early goodwill.

While his new administration gives greater prominence to younger generations, it remains to be seen whether the swift house-cleaning will lead to greater political rights and other reforms in the ultraconservative kingdom.

One clear winner in the shake-up is Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who has been interior minister since 2012 and spearheads counterterrorism efforts.

King Salman named the 55-year-old as deputy crown prince in one of his first acts as king. That's a historic change, because for the first time it puts a grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, on course to rule. He becomes second in line to the throne behind Salman's half brother Crown Prince Muqrin, who is 69.

Mohammed bin Nayef, who helped to establish a center for rehabilitating former jihadists, survived a 2009 assassination attempt — a suicide bombing orchestrated by al-Qaida's branch in neighboring Yemen.

He studied in the U.S. state of Oregon and has worked to strengthen American-Saudi ties. Shortly before King Abdullah's death, Mohammed bin Nayef held talks with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office focused on fighting terror-

ism and other security issues.

Simon Henderson, director of the Gulf and Energy Policy Program at The Washington Institute, described him as "Mr. Security" with favorable reviews from U.S. officials.

Salman named the prince as his replacement as defense minister hours after taking the throne. Mohammed bin Salman also oversees royal protocol and is a special adviser to the king, increasing his influence in the royal court.

The king elevated another son, Abdulaziz bin Salman, to deputy oil minister as the kingdom weathers a severe slump in the value of its most precious commodity.

The long-serving oil minister, Ali Naimi, is one of few Cabinet ministers not to lose his job in the shake-up. He oversees the management of the energy giant's nearly 270 billion barrels of oil reserves and leads the kingdom's negotiating team at OPEC meetings, where Saudi policy dominates.

Abdulaziz bin Salman's promotion increases the chances that the prince could succeed Naimi.

Salman also opted to retain long-serving Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal to lead diplomatic relations with Shiite powerhouse Iran, Saudi Arabia's main regional rival.

Al-Faisal last year invited Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to visit Saudi Arabia, but later accused Iran of fomenting unrest throughout the Middle East. Zarif finally visited shortly after King Abdullah's death, and expressed hopes of greater cooperation with the Sunni-ruled kingdom. □



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, 2nd right first row, poses with Shura members at consultative Shura Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's new monarch isn't wasting time. Since assuming the throne Jan. 23, King Salman has elevated some of his closest relatives and sidelined previous power-brokers, tightened decision-making and promised lavish payouts designed to win early goodwill.

(AP Photo/Saudi Press Agency)

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China emerges as Latin America's lender of last resort

JACK CHANG
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — As soon as she landed in Beijing this week, Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner began lauding new deals with what she called the world's "No. 1 economy," ranging from two proposed nuclear power plants to joint space exploration.

With her country's economy contracting and its supply of dollars dwindling, the South American president had arrived Monday looking for help from China, which has already lent Argentina \$14 billion since 2007. By the end of her trip Thursday, she announced a raft of new business deals, including selling more Argentine beef.

"Long day, but very fruitful," her Twitter account read Tuesday night. "Argentina confirms its presence and importance in the No. 1 economy of the world. The reception couldn't be better."

The trip — and Fernandez's enthusiasm — high-

lights China's growing role as a kind of lender of last resort for Latin America. Beijing has become a frequent destination for the region's presidents, especially populist ones who have spent freely over the past decade but are now



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez shake hands after signing documents following their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015.

grappling with a collapse in the prices of oil and other commodities that their economies produce and export.

While American and European lenders have stayed away from such risky coun-

tries, or demand economic and political reforms in exchange for loans, the more than \$100 billion China has lent Latin America come with fewer human rights or good governance strings. They do, however, often require countries work

(AP Photo/Rolax Dela Pena) with Chinese companies on housing, rail and other infrastructure projects, or pay the loans back with millions of barrels of oil for years to come.

China has helped sustain Latin America by buying

hundreds of billions of dollars of soybeans, iron ore, oil and other commodities, in the process lifting millions in the region into the middle class and helping shield governments from economic woes in the United States and Europe. Now, as China's economy slows, and sends commodity prices to record lows, the Asian giant is moving even closer to its partner countries, especially in Latin America.

In early January, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa and Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro joined other regional heads of state in Beijing for a meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, a bloc designed in part to weaken U.S.-led organizations in the Americas.

Correa left Beijing with \$7.5 billion in new financing, adding to the \$10 billion China is estimated to have already lent Ecuador, according to a report by the U.S.-based think tank, the Inter-American Dialogue. Maduro touted what he

said were Chinese pledges to invest another \$20 billion in his country, a figure analysts said may include formerly announced deals. China had already loaned Venezuela \$50 billion since 2007, the report found.

Cui Shoujun, an international relations professor at Renmin University in Beijing, said the financial support is designed to build long-term allies around the world as China seeks to remake a global order long dominated by U.S.- and European-based institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. China has already helped launch a \$100 billion development bank with Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa, which President Xi Jinping signed off on during a visit to Brazil last year.

"We are not calculating the gains and losses in the short period but building a long-term relationship," Cui said. "It's a kind of partnership, not just Latin America relying on China and China wanting resources." □

Argentine president's tweets on Chinese accent cause furor

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Embattled Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, while on a state visit to China seeking badly needed investment, caused a furor by joking about her hosts' accents on Twitter.

Fernandez tried to mimic a Chinese accent by switching "r's" with "l's" in a tweet in Spanish that translates as: "Did they only come for lice and petroleum."

A few minutes later, she added: "Sorry, the levels of ridiculousness and absurdity are so high they can only be digested with humor."

The tweets came as she met Wednesday with Chinese President Xi Jinping. On Thursday, Chinese diplomats declined to respond to the comments by Fernandez, a prolific tweeter who has 3.53 million followers.

But that didn't stop the Twit-

terverse in the South American country and beyond from exploding with criticism of what many considered a racist tweet.

"Cristina Fernandez's lack of tact and respect is incredible," wrote @FaundezLafarga. "She goes to China looking for (economic) agreements and she makes fun of their accents."

@GuyChazan wrote: "Faux pas in China. Really, this sort of joke went out of fashion

in the 70s."

Since Twitter is blocked in China and no Chinese state media have reported on it, the accent-mimicking went largely unnoticed by the Chinese public.

For a handful of Chinese who read about it in foreign media, some brushed it off as a joke with no ill intent, while others challenged Fernandez to speak proper Chinese. China's foreign ministry declined to com-

ment on it at its daily briefing Thursday.

The controversy comes as Fernandez struggles to distance herself from the mysterious death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was found dead in his bathroom Jan. 18, hours before he was to elaborate on allegations that Fernandez helped shield Iranians connected to the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center that killed 85. □



Prime Minister Eman applauds creativity:

Aruba's youth shine in the Green Chair Competition

ORANJESTAD – Prime Minister Mike Eman told the competitors of the Green Chair Competition “We have the right stuff!” Last Friday night, a large group of youth, parents and teachers met at Rietveld Academy for a special event for the announcement of the winners of the Green Chair Competition 2015. This activity was organized by the Office of Innovation of the Ministry of General Affairs, Innovation and Science under the leadership of Prime Minister Eman.

The scope of the event not only brought to the table expected ingenious results, but also great pride to see what the youth of our island can do when given opportunity, enthusiasm and support.

Prime Minister Eman attended the Green Chair Competition to personally see all of the workmanship of the participants and to speak with the young creative competitors of the environmental designs. “Never do we hesitate about the in the creativity of our youth, but without a doubt and what we’ve seen here tonight, we are sure that we have all the right stuff,” was the initial commentary of Prime Minister Eman. The unique and innovative creations made by the students of Colegio San Augustin in San Nicolas were the absolute winners of this year’s competition.

Aruba’s Office of Innovation was supported by Rietveld Academy.

Mr. Glen Goddijn, coordinator for the academy, personally gave presentations to various secondary schools to entice competitors and give a base for what the objectives and criteria were in the competition. On the final night, Goddijn expressed his satisfaction

gave their support during the final night. Representatives from each sponsor formed the panel of judges consisting of Jariza Correa of Kooyman, Aixia Arana of De Wit & Van Dorp, Fransisca Tromp of Setar and Elton Arends of the Office of Innovation together with

tin Class 2A team of Stephanie Boekhoudt, Nia Simmons, Xianteh Beyde, Genisha Angel, Diana Tenoriok, Vincent de Cuba and Shwayne Arrindell under the guidance of teacher Jarissa Dubero. Their green chair was made of used tires and paint in the form of a local

the first prize of the Green Chair Competition 2015 to the student team from Colegio San Augustin Class 2C. The winning students are Kyle Danies, Mateo Sosa, Robby Croes, Jodister Girwar and Guervendrick Etienne and were also under the guidance of Jarisa Du-



with the results of this year. “This opportunity for students of Aruba to show their creativity was not just for fun, it was also a necessity for our future and inspired the youth to think in a different way to live their lives and to realize what they can recycle, for example: garbage,” Goddijn remarked.

The sponsors of the project donated prizes for the best entries and

renowned local artist

Ciro Abath. The Setar Award went to the student team of Vladimir, Lemond and Robert under the guidance of teacher Charissa Kock from Scol Practico di Ofishi (Practical School of Trade). The group made a recycled chair out of plastic bags and newspapers.

The Arvefa Award went to the student team of Colegio San Augu-

rattle snake indigenous to Aruba, even with the unique markings on its tail.

De Wit & Van Dorp awarded the second prize to the creation of Rodley Orman from Maria Colegio Class 2C. Rodley won this honor with his green chair design using an empty oil drum under the guidance of teacher Jarissa Dubero who teaches of both schools.

Kooyman awarded

bero.

The Office of Innovation recognized all of the student’s designs by creating a tour of the top 10 Green Chair creations in the competition and making them visible to the public in sections in line with the different sponsors. Prime Minister Mike Eman personally congratulated all of the participants for their creative green initiatives. □

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PALM BEACH - This year's Super Bowl was so exciting that people are still talking about it. Maybe they are even still celebrating while on Aruba-especially the Patriots fans!

The Patriots did a phenomenal job, ripping the championship out of the hands of the Seattle Seahawks at the last possible moment. Guests at MooMba Beach were having a whale of a time on Super Bowl Sunday, watching the game, cheering and shouting. The 20ft screen showed every little detail to perfection - Katy Perry was mesmer-

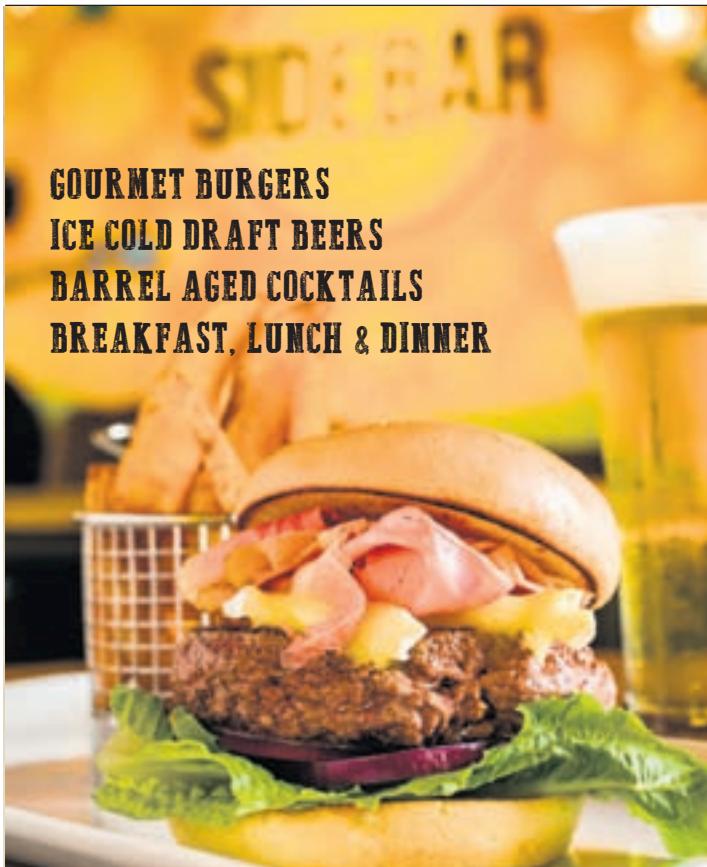
izing during her 12-minute halftime performance, and the wild celebrations that ensued the final minute of the game were truly memorable.

There were repeat guests at MooMba who had been watching the Super Bowl for seven years in a row; they said afterwards that this was the greatest of all. The beer specials were a big hit, the waitress service was in much demand. All in all, it was a terrific Super Bowl. See you at MooMba Beach for the big game again next year, guys!☐

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Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

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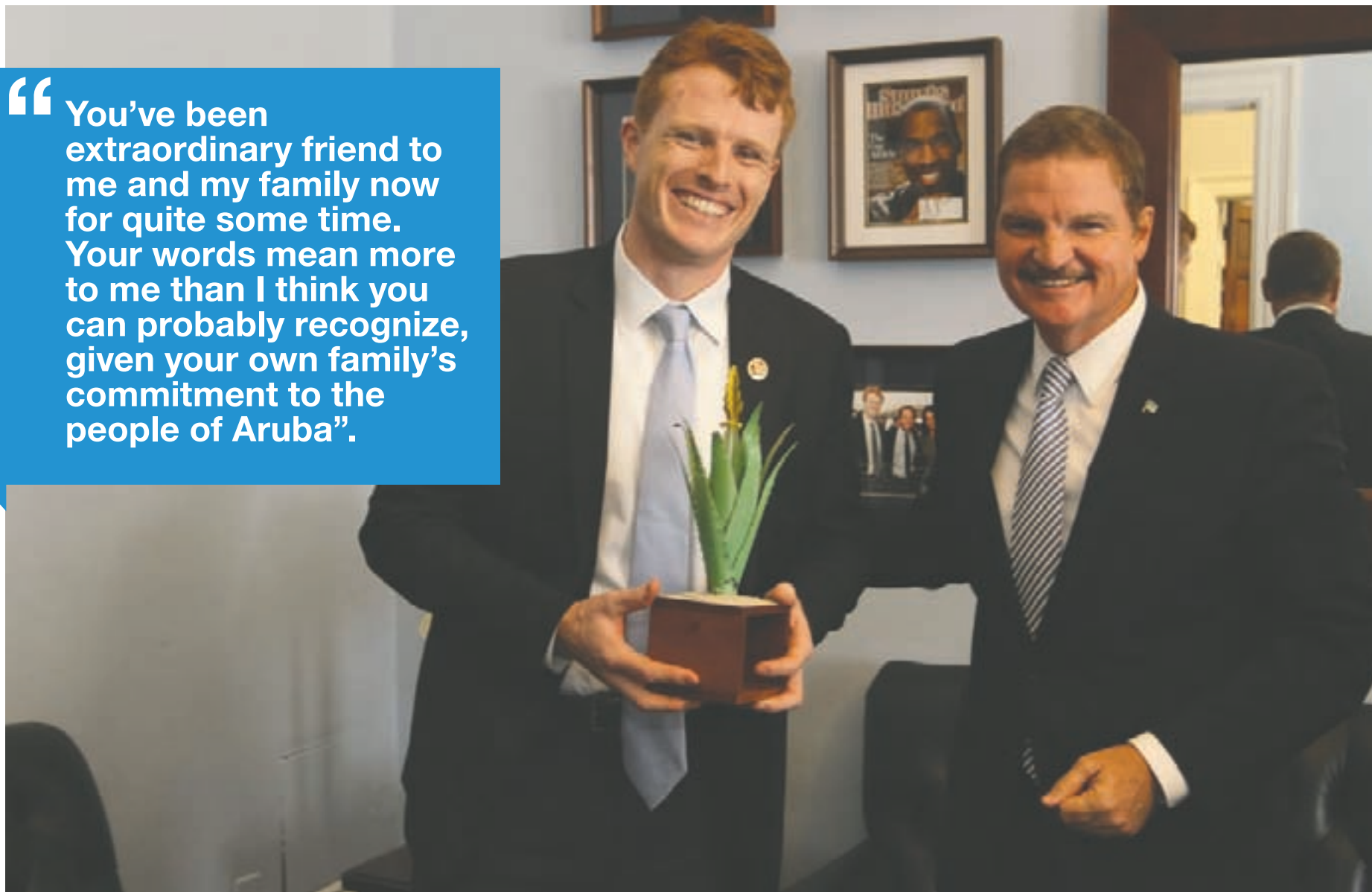
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“You’ve been extraordinary friend to me and my family now for quite some time. Your words mean more to me than I think you can probably recognize, given your own family’s commitment to the people of Aruba”.



JOE KENNEDY III SHARES MUTUAL INTERESTS WITH PM MIKE EMAN

The Prime Minister of Aruba Mike Eman and his delegation visited the offices of Congressman Joe Kennedy III, representative of the 4th Congressional District of Massachusetts this week. Kennedy III is the son of Joseph Kennedy II and the grandson of the legendary Robert Kennedy (RIP). “Not only is it great for the United States to see young public servants, but also coming from a family that has dedicated their lives to public service. That sentiment and the feeling of continued service is not only naturally seen by Massachusetts, but for the United States as a whole and

that lives up in the Kennedy family. This is a great inspiration I’m sure for the United States and in our part of the world,” stated PM Eman.

PM Eman and his wife have maintained a good relationship with the Kennedy family and each time there is an opportunity to visit one another they do. Joseph Kennedy II was invited to speak in recent years back at a successful conference at the Aruba Renaissance Conference Center supported by the AVP Party.

The Kennedy family name,

the history and the commitment to supporting those who are in need, giving also the light of hope to people who sometimes feel abandoned and don’t necessarily feel that they have a voice in this world, have always found in the Kennedy family and with President Kennedy and Joseph’s grandfather Robert Kennedy, a voice and a recognition. “The fact that this legacy is being continued today by you,” PM Eman said to Kennedy III, “and it is quite an honor to be here, and coming from a family with many generations in politics, I understand the feel-

ing and the conviction, and so I’m very proud to follow your career and to be here with you today, on behalf of the people of Aruba, we wish you a lot of success.”

Joe Kennedy III expressed how honored he was that Prime Minister Eman was able to spend some time with him during his short stay in the USA. You’ve been extraordinary friend to me and my family now for quite some time. Your words mean more to me than I think you can probably recognize, given your own family’s commitment to the people of Aruba.

Kennedy expressed that the United States continues to be a good friend to Aruba and the Aruban people and how ever they can be supportive, they will continue to be. “You’ve set an example in how you serve your country and how you have moved your country to economic stagnation, that we and so many others felt, to economic recovery, environmental sustainability, tourism and others that is one that the rest of us can learn from and we will continue to support you and the Aruban people” Concluded Kennedy III.



US Congressman Jeff Duncan enthusiastic about Aruba's renewable energy plans

WASHINGTON/ORANJESTAD – Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden recently invited Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Energy Mike de Meza to actively participate the Caribbean Energy Security Summit in Washington DC. V.P. Biden spotlighted Aruba during the energy summit as being a leader in renewable energy for the Caribbean. A greater compliment for the island of Aruba would be hard to find. U.S. Congressman Jeff Dun-

can of South Carolina met with Caribbean leaders last week to discuss how "energy-efficient countries do more while using less." Congressman Duncan sits on the US Natural Resources Committee, which gives him an outlet to promote US energy policy, and he is an integral part of the GOP's House Energy Action Team (HEAT). Congressman Duncan is passionate about American Energy Independence and also is the president of the Alliance to Save Energy. Duncan said that he is inter-

ested in developing good relations with the leaders of other countries in the region and looking for opportunities in the energy realm. "Whether its alternative energy or liquefied natural gas (LNG) opportunities for American businesses, I look forward to an ongoing relationship and open conversation with Aruba and other Caribbean countries," stated Duncan.

Prime Minister Mike Eman had the opportunity to meet with Duncan at The House of Representatives on Capitol

Hill in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, PM Eman explained the importance for Aruba to have a strong relationship with the USA and not just for tourism. He also gave a brief overview of Aruba's vision to transition to 100% Renewable Energy by 2020 and what it is going to take to get there. Eman stated "We know the United States has a role in our goals to reach our maximum potential through technology, research and energy storage as we already work closely with Harvard University and the

Rocky Mountain Institute as well as the Carbon War Room and we look forward to an even greater interest from the USA." When asked why the Caribbean was important to the USA, Duncan explained, "we are neighbors in the hemisphere and we are allies in a lot of ways, especially with Aruba in regards to the tourism aspect, business opportunities, pre-clearance facilities with immigration and customs and so many opportunities to work together to meet our energy needs."



Nobel Prize Winner Professor Stiglitz approves of Aruba's strategies

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister Mike de Meza recently had the opportunity to meet with Nobel Prize Winner and Economics Professor Joseph Stiglitz at Columbia University. Professor Stiglitz was an adviser to former US President Bill Clinton and a Chief Economist for the World Bank and continues to participate in advising governments and economic policies. His work includes

figuring out what to do to avoid a crisis. Professor Stiglitz and Prime Minister Eman discussed about areas that each have been engaged in. Professor Stiglitz mentioned "One of the things that I've done in recent years is focusing on this issue of what does it take for an economy to do well. The main message is that well-being is what we should be caring about, and realize that well-being is not really measured by the GDP or

the standard measures," said Stiglitz. The first aspect Stiglitz and Eman agreed on is insuring that shared prosperity and its benefits are shared within a society. The second is to insure environmental sustainable growth. A particular aspect of that is energy, how to implement green policies that take advantage of nature without destroying it. PM Eman showed great interest in Stiglitz' last book 'Creating a Learning Society'

and how to move in a direction to create a learning society and how Aruba can establish itself as a hub between Latin America and Europe, North America in providing locale for knowledge and learning. "Aruba's targets are ambitious and there is already work underway and this meeting today with PM Eman opened the doors to the possibilities as to how I could make some effort to help," Stiglitz confirmed. When

you make investments in people, investments in the country, and then you need to look at the point from the view of a balance sheet with assets and liabilities, the results show that the country is actually richer and doing much better. "I'm very pleased that Aruba's Prime Minister has followed the investment kind of policy. I'm looking forward to visiting Aruba as I've heard a lot of wonderful things about the island," concluded Stiglitz.



Tiger Woods withdraws because of tightness in lower back



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot head far to the right on the 11th hole of the north course at Torrey Pines during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in San Diego.

Associated Press

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — In an ominous start to his season, Tiger Woods walked off the course after 11 holes Thursday at the Farmers Insurance Open because of tightness in his lower

back that he attributed to a fog delay. Woods began reaching for his lower back midway through the round on the North Course at Torrey Pines, and his grimace became more pronounced. Billy Horschel

picked up the tee for Woods on their 10th hole and took the ball out of the cup for him when Woods made birdie. Woods hit a safe shot to the middle of the par-3 third green. When it was his turn, he had cad-

die Joe LaCava pick up his ball marker and he waited for Horschel and Rickie Fowler to finish before getting into a cart and driving to his car. In his last six tournaments since returning from back surgery a week

before the Masters, Woods has missed the cut three times, withdrawn twice and finished 69th in the British Open, his lowest 72-hole finish in a major.

Continued on Page 22



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NHL Capsules

Penguins go top of Metropolitan, Rangers keep up

The Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— Marc-Andre Fleury had 22 saves for his seventh shutout of the season, leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 2-0 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday night.

Evgeni Malkin and David Perron scored for the Penguins, who improved to 12-6-5 on the road this season. Viktor Fasth had 24 saves in the Oilers' second loss in three games.

After a scoreless first period in which there were few chances, Malkin got Pittsburgh on the scoreboard 24 seconds into the second. He picked up a loose puck during a scramble in front of the Oilers' net and slipped in his 20th goal of the season.

The Penguins doubled the lead with 0.4 seconds to go in the period as the rebound of Kris Letang's shot hit Perron on the way to-

ward the net and caromed in.

RANGERS 3, BRUINS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Cam Talbot made 18 saves in place of the injured Henrik Lundqvist, Rick Nash had a goal and an assist, and Derek Stepan snapped a second-period tie to lift the Rangers to their third straight win.

Talbot, whose previous start was a 3-0 loss at Boston on Jan. 15, got the nod after Lundqvist was forced to sit out by a neck injury caused when he was struck in the throat by a shot against Carolina on Saturday. Lundqvist is day to day.

Nash gave the Rangers a 1-0 edge in the first period with his NHL-leading 32nd goal, and Derick Brassard and Derek Stepan scored in the second.

Milan Lucic and Patrice Bergeron had goals in the first period for Boston, which



Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) makes the save on Edmonton Oilers' Iiro Pakarinen (62) during the third period on an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta.

Associated Press

was 8-1-1 in its previous 10. Tuukka Rask stopped 22 shots.

FLAMES 3, SHARKS 1

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Kris Russell scored his first goal of the season, Jonas Hiller stopped 28 shots, and

Calgary improved to 4-1-0 on its six-game homestand. Jiri Hudler and Mason Raymond also scored for the Flames.

John Scott scored for San Jose, which lost in regulation for the first time in its

last five games (3-1-1).

Calgary opened the scoring at 9:28 of the second period when Russell's shot from inside the blue line was partially stopped by Alex Stallock but still squeaked through. □

Austria's Reichelt wins super-G at worlds; Miller gashes leg

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)

— Bode Miller smacked a gate so hard he crashed, opening a deep gash on his right calf. Kjetil Jansrud later hit another panel and had to have his left shoulder checked out.

This demanding and daunting course took a toll on some of the biggest names in skiing.

Not Hannes Reichelt, though. The Austrian tamed this tricky terrain, just as he did this season in a World Cup race.

Reichelt won the super-G at the world championships Thursday, a race in which a crash sent Miller tumbling down the hill and to the hospital.

Reichelt finished the challenging course in 1 minute, 15.68 seconds — 0.11 seconds faster than Canada's Dustin Cook, who made a surprise run from back in the pack. Adrien Theaux of France earned the bronze. Everyone was talking about Miller's horrific crash, including the winner.

"If you know Bode, sometimes it looks really bad, then he stands up and nothing happened," Reichelt said. "I hope he's safe and nothing happened."

That's still to be determined. The U.S. team said the cut was being evaluated by medical staff.

Miller had a strong run going when he hooked his left arm on a gate, spun backward, lost his right ski, then his left, and went somersaulting down the mountain. He appeared to fall on top of one of his bouncing skis, causing the deep wound. Miller gingerly got up, retrieved his gear and even finished the race as his wife, pro volleyball player Morgan Miller, watched in the gallery while holding his son.

"Bode was skiing outstanding," U.S. men's coach Sasha Rearick said. "He was going for it, absolutely sending it from top to bottom. He took risks and was putting down a run that inspired America, inspires the world."



In this photo provided by Pentaphoto United States' Bode Miller crashes during the men's super-G competition at the alpine skiing world championships, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in Beaver Creek, Colo. Miller did not finish the race.
Associated Press

"He took a nasty crash. A really nasty crash."

It was Miller's first race since back surgery in November and yet he didn't hold back. He never does. "Bode knew he had to put it on the limit in order to get on the podium today," said teammate Ted Ligety, who couldn't successfully defend his super-G world title from two years ago in Austria, finishing ninth. "What happened today was more just back luck." U.S. skier Travis Ganong said he talked to Miller in the finish area.

"He said his whole body was numb. Everything hurt," Ganong said. "He said he has to get 100 stitches in his calf. I hope the best for him."

If he can't get back in time for the downhill Saturday or the super-combined Sunday, this may have been Miller's last big race. At 37, Miller was pointing to the worlds in his comeback from herniated disk surgery. He wasn't sure how much longer he would race.

Asked if he thought Miller might return for the downhill, Rearick said, "I hope so. I hope so."

Miller wasn't the only skier to get caught up in a gate. Jansrud crashed through one with his left shoulder,

but kept going and tied for fourth. The Norwegian team later said the shoulder appeared OK, but he was in pain.

Jansrud, the Olympic super-G champion at the Sochi Games, is still looking for his first medal at the worlds. This is Reichelt's first world championship gold medal. He's made himself right at home on this

course, winning a World Cup super-G at Beaver Creek in December.

"That's sounds really good — world champion," said Reichelt, who had herniated disk surgery a year ago that knocked him out of the Sochi Olympics. "I'm feeling relaxed. The pressure before was really high. Not from outside, but from my side."

"I said, 'OK, you have to repeat the success of December. To repeat something is so difficult.'"

Cook started as racer No. 28, but used a fast run to finish a surprising runner-up. Well, to everyone else, that is. "I'm a lot less surprised than most people are," Cook said. "I've been skiing really fast all year, fast in training for too many years. For me, it's a culmination of a lot of years. I know that I'm capable of this for sure."

There must be something about North American snow that appeals to Theaux. Of his 10 World Cup podium finishes, four are either in Lake Louise, Alberta, or Beaver Creek. "It's just perfect," Theaux said. "It's a great, great day for me. I think the most beautiful of my life."

Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway made his first start of the season after Achilles tendon surgery in October. He was pleased with sixth place. "I wasn't focused on the bad parts, the fact I didn't ski the last three months," Svindal explained. "I focused on the fact I had a lot of skiing in me and tried to make it happen." □

Spike Lee goes from director to coach for NBA All-Star

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee is going to be directing the likes of Kevin Hart, Common, Anthony Anderson and Mo'Ne Davis — but instead of on a movie set, it will be on the basketball court.

The famed filmmaker is slated to coach the Sprint NBA All-Star Celebrity Game, which will kick off festivities for the All-Star weekend on Feb. 13-15. Lee, a New York Knicks fan, will coach with Knicks star Carmelo Anthony and ESPN Radio's Mike Golic and Mike Greenberg.

The event, to be held at Madison Square Garden in New York City and televised live on ESPN, will also feature actors Ansel Elgort



In this Oct. 30, 2014 file photo, filmmaker Spike Lee cheers during an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and Cleveland Cavaliers in Cleveland.

Associated Press

and Chadwick Boseman, former NBA players and current WBNA stars. Keke Palmer will sing the

national anthem and Magic! — known for their hit "Rude" — will perform at halftime. □

NBA Capsules

Curry's 51 points lead Warriors past Mavericks

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Stephen Curry scored a season-high 51 points and made a season-best 10 3-pointers, rallying the Golden State Warriors from an early 22-point deficit to down the Dallas Mavericks 128-114 on Wednesday night.

Curry connected on 10 of 16 shots from beyond the arc and 16 of 26 overall. The All-Star point guard and MVP candidate put on a dazzling dribbling display to match his streaky shooting stroke, helping the NBA-leading Warriors (39-8) complete their biggest comeback of the season in front of a roaring sellout crowd.

Chandler Parsons scored 24 points, and Tyson Chandler had 21 points and 17 rebounds in a disappointing defeat for Dallas, which played without injured point guard Rajon Rondo again. The Mavericks led 40-18 in the first quarter before Curry carried Golden State back.

The Warriors improved to a league-best 23-2 at home. **HAWKS 105, WIZARDS 96 ATLANTA (AP)** — Jeff Teague scored 26 points, Al Horford added 21 and the Atlanta Hawks rebounded from their first loss in more than a month.

The East-leading Hawks were coming off a 115-100 loss at New Orleans that snapped their franchise-record, 19-game winning streak. They made sure it didn't turn into a different kind of streak, overcoming a dismal third quarter to beat the Wizards for the third straight time this season.

Teague finished off the Wizards with a drive to the basket, laying the ball in despite getting bounced to the floor by Marcin Gortat. Teague sank the free throw to complete the three-point play, giving Atlanta a 103-92 lead with 1:54 remaining. John Wall had 24 points and Bradley Beal 23, but

it wasn't enough to keep Washington from its season-high fourth consecutive loss.

THUNDER 102, PELICANS 91 NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Russell Westbrook tied his career high with 45 points and Oklahoma City overcame Kevin Durant's absence to beat New Orleans.

Westbrook had 25 first-half points, including a career best for a quarter with 19 in the first.

Durant sat out for the fourth time in five games because of a left big toe injury.

Anthony Davis led New Orleans with 23 points and eight rebounds.

The teams will meet again Friday night in Oklahoma City.

TIMBERWOLVES 102, HEAT 101

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Martin scored 30 points and Minnesota overcame another monster game from Hassan Whiteside to beat Miami.

Thaddeus Young had 16 points and five steals, Ricky Rubio added eight points and nine assists in his first home game since Nov. 1, and the Timberwolves erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Whiteside scored a career-high 24 points, grabbed 20 rebounds and set a Heat record by making his first 11 shots. He finished 12 of 13.

Luol Deng added 18 points, but Norris Cole missed an open 3-pointer in the closing moments, allowing the Wolves to escape. Dwyane Wade missed his fourth straight game with a strained right hamstring for the Heat, and coach Erik Spoelstra said the star guard will not play Friday at San Antonio.

BUCKS 113, LAKERS 105, OT MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a career-high 25 points, Brandon Knight had 24 and Milwaukee outlasted Los Angeles for its fifth consecutive victory.

Knight, who returned to the lineup after missing Mon-

day's game in Toronto with a quadriceps injury, scored 12 points in overtime. Khris Middleton and O.J. Mayo added 21 points apiece for Milwaukee.

Carlos Boozer had 28 points for the Lakers, who lost for the 11th time in 12 games — including eight in a row on the road. Ed Davis had 20 rebounds for Los Angeles.

NETS 109, RAPTORS 93

TORONTO (AP) — Jarrett Jack scored 24 points, Alan Anderson had 22 and Brooklyn handed Toronto its first loss in 10 games against Atlantic Division opponents this season.

Playing for the second time since missing 11 games with a rib injury, Deron Williams scored 11 points in 33 minutes to help Brooklyn avoid its first four-game road losing streak since December



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, right, looks for a shot as Dallas Mavericks' Al-Farouq Aminu (7) and another player defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won 128-114.

Associated Press

2013. Terrence Ross scored 23 points for Toronto. The Raptors dropped their second in a row after winning the previous six. □

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Tiger Woods

Continued from Page 18

He had said at his unofficial Hero World Challenge in December and last week in the Phoenix Open, where he had a career-high 82, that he was at full strength.

He blamed this on having to stand around in the cool Pacific air during a fog delay.

Woods warmed up for his

9:20 a.m. tee time and was near the 10th tee when play was suspended because fog rolled in. Fog delayed the start by an hour, and the next round of fog led to a 90-minute stoppage in play.

"I was ready to go," Woods said. "I had a good warmup session the first time around. Then we stood out here and I got cold, and everything started deactivating again. And it's frustrating that I just can't stay activated. That's just kind of the way



Tiger Woods loads his car after withdrawing in the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, in San Diego.

Associated Press



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SUN & HOL 6:40 | 9:05

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it is."

Asked if it was new pain from the back injury that forced him to withdraw at Firestone in August, Woods said his "glutes are shutting off."

"Then they don't activate and then, hence, it goes into my lower back," he said, sounding more like a physical therapist than a 14-time major champion. "So I tried to activate my glutes as best I could in between, but they never stayed activated."

Woods was 2-over par through 11 holes and in a tie for 130th when he withdrew.

He will fall to his worst world ranking since before he won his first PGA Tour event as a 20-year-old in 1996, and he most likely will not qualify for a World Golf Championship for only the second time in his career. Woods is not expected to play again until the Honda Classic in three weeks. Doral is the following week. He did not indicate earlier in the week that he would add tournaments to his schedule ahead of the Masters, which is April 9-12. The front nine at Torrey Pines was more of the same kind

of golf he showed in the Phoenix Open last week, when he missed the cut by 12 shots with a short game that was shocking. On his first hole, the par-4 10th, Woods short-sided himself right of the green and he bladed his chip some 35 feet beyond the hole for a bogey.

He was in trouble again on the next hole, facing the same chip, and this time struck it perfectly. He chipped in to save par. From there, it was a mixed bag of poor tee shots (he hit only one fairway) and poor iron shots. His tee shot on the par-3 12th wound up on a front tee box at the 13th hole. He missed the green long and right from the 13th fairway.

Woods made a 6-foot birdie on the 16th and he made birdie on the par-5 first hole. The last hole he completed was the most telling.

Horschel and Woods were in the right rough, about 70 yards short of the green. Horschel hit to about 12 feet on the collar of the green behind the hole. Woods went about a yard from a tee box on the next hole, the shot sailing over the heads of the gallery

and down a slope. From there, he duffed his flop shot halfway up the hill, hit the next one too hard about 15 feet past the cup and two-putted for double bogey.

It was clear at that point that Woods might walk off, especially with the third green close to the clubhouse. Horschel and Fowler went at the flag. Woods played a conservative shot to the middle of the green, and never putted that one. Woods won five times in 2013 and was PGA Tour player of the year. He has never looked further from the elite in golf as he does now. He returned too early from his back surgery last year, missing the cut in the Quicken Loans National, finishing toward the bottom of the pack at the British Open, withdrawing at Firestone and missing the cut at the PGA Championship. Woods took four months off to let his back fully heal and to regain his strength. He said at Isleworth in December and at Phoenix last week that his health was no longer an issue. But it sent him home early from Torrey Pines, and sent him to a muddled future. □

Your info has been hacked. Here's what you should do

BY BRANDON BAILEY
JOSEPH PISANI

By The Associated Press

Hackers have stolen personal information from tens of millions of people with Anthem health insurance. The nation's second-largest health insurer, formerly known as WellPoint, said hackers stole Social Security numbers, names, birthdates, email addresses, employment details, incomes and street addresses of people who are currently covered or had coverage in the past.

The Anthem hack adds to massive data breaches at JPMorgan, Sony Pictures, Target and Home Depot in the past 18 months. Whether shopping, banking or going to the hospital, Americans are mostly at the mercy of companies to keep their sensitive details safe. But here's what you can do if your information was stolen.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

— Notify the credit agencies (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion) and request a 90-day credit alert. (Each reporting agency is supposed to notify the others, but you may want to contact all three yourself.) The alert tells businesses to contact you before opening any new accounts in your name. You can renew the alert every 90 days, or you're entitled to keep it in effect for seven years if



A man walks past health insurer Anthem's corporate headquarters in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.

you find that your identity is stolen and file a report with police.

— You might consider asking the reporting agencies to place a full freeze on your credit. This blocks any business from checking your credit to open a new account, so it's a stronger measure than a credit alert. BUT you should weigh that against the hassle of notifying credit agencies to lift the freeze — which can take a few days — every time you apply for a loan, open a new account or even sign up for utility service.

BE A DETECTIVE

— When your credit card bill comes, check closely

for any irregularities. And don't overlook small charges. Crooks are known to charge smaller amounts, usually under \$10, to see if you notice. If you don't, they may charge larger amounts later.

— Get a free credit report once a year from at least one of the major reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion), and review it for unauthorized accounts. Ignore services that charge a fee for credit reports. You can order them without charge at www.annualcreditreport.com. If you order from each agency once a year, you could effectively check your history every four months.

DO PAID SERVICES WORK?

— Some experts say there's not much to be gained from a paid credit monitoring service. But it can't hurt to sign up for any monitoring Anthem or any other hacked business offers for free. NOTE: These services will tell you if a new account is opened in your name, but they won't prevent it, and many don't check for things like bogus cellphone accounts, fraudulent applications for government benefits or claims for medical benefits. Some do offer limited insurance or help from a staffer trained to work with credit issuers and reporting agencies.

SOMEONE DID STEAL MY IDENTITY, WHAT DO I DO?

— Contact the credit issuer to dispute fraudulent charges and have the bogus account closed.

— Request your credit report and ask the reporting agencies to remove bogus accounts or any incorrect information from your record. See tip #1 on setting up a credit alert and/or freeze.

— Submit a report through the FTC website: www.consumer.ftc.gov. Click the "privacy & identity" tab, which will walk you through creating an affidavit you can show to creditors.

— Keep copies of all reports and correspondence. Use certified mail to get delivery receipts, and keep notes on every phone call. AVOID ADDITIONAL HACKS

— After a hack, scammers may try to use the stolen data to trick you into giving up more personal information. They can use that info to steal money in your accounts or open new credit card.

— Don't click on any links from emails. Bad software could be downloaded to your computer that can steal account passwords. — You might get letters in the mail saying you won a tablet or vacation and give you a phone number to call. Don't do it. It's likely a ploy to gather more information from you. □

Samsung launches Tizen-powered TVs in home market

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

South Korean electronics giant Samsung Electronics Co. has started domestic sales of high-end televisions powered by its Tizen operating system and plans to add washing machines, fridges and other appliances to the range of products that use the software.

Samsung said sales of Tizen-powered ultra-HD TVs began Thursday in South Korea. The new TVs come in four sizes from 55 inches

diagonally to 88 inches. The smallest model costs 5.49 million won (\$5,000).

The company's smartphones and tablets rely on Google's Android operating system despite its efforts to develop Tizen as an alternative. Currently Samsung is focusing on pushing the Tizen OS into living rooms and eventually into kitchens and other corners of the home.

Kim Hyun-seok, head of Samsung's TV business, said all of Samsung's Internet-connected TVs will be powered by Tizen this year

as well as refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners and robotic vacuum cleaners.

At a press conference, Samsung executives emphasized what consumers could do with the new televisions, as well as touting the superior color range of the displays compared with standard TVs. After startup, the screen of Tizen-powered televisions displays most recently used apps and recommendations. The company said users of Samsung's Galaxy mobile devices



Kim Hyun-seok, head of Samsung Electronics' TV business, poses with its SUHD 4K TV during a press conference in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.

Associated Press

can stream content from their phones to the television with one tap on the screen.

Samsung said it increased

the number of games, videos and movie offerings.

The company did not give launch plans for overseas markets. □

Philip Morris Int'l 4Q profit falls about 19 percent

M. FELBERBAUM

AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Philip Morris International's fourth-quarter profit dropped about 19 percent as cigarette sales fell in the overseas markets that it serves and it was hurt by foreign exchange rates for the U.S. dollar. The seller of Marlboro and other cigarette brands outside the United States

said Thursday it earned \$1.61 billion, or \$1.03 per share, in the quarter, down from \$1.99 billion, or \$1.24 per share, a year ago.

The results fell short of Wall Street expectations by 3 cents, according to analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research.

Excluding excise taxes, revenue fell more than 7 percent to \$7.2 billion. An-

alysts expected revenue of \$7.1 billion.

Its shares rose 58 cents to \$82.66 in midday trading Thursday.

Cigarette shipments fell nearly 4 percent to about 214.9 billion cigarettes. Total Marlboro volumes fell more than 4 percent to 71.3 billion cigarettes. Shipments fell 7 percent in Asia, about 3 percent in Latin America and Cana-

da, and 2.5 percent in the company's region that encompasses Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as in the European Union. Shipments in the European Union fell less than one percent.

Still, the company said its retail market share was stable or increased in a number of key regions, including Argentina, Canada, France, Germany,

Italy, Korea, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Smokers face tax increases, bans, health concerns and social stigma worldwide, but the effect of those on cigarette demand generally is less stark outside the United States. Philip Morris International has compensated for volume declines by raising prices and cutting costs. □

Stocks jump as health care, energy stocks advance

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market surged again on Thursday, putting the Dow Jones industrial av-

ing a slump the week before, encouraged by a 4 percent jump in the price of crude oil and Pfizer's \$16 billion deal to buy the drugmaker Hospira.

now up about 700 points, or 4 percent, so far this week.

That's a far cry from the week before, when the blue-chip index stumbled

cent example of that," said Gabriela Santos, a global market strategist with JPMorgan Funds.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 211.86 points, or 1.2 percent, to 17,884.88. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 21.01 points, or 1 percent, to 2,062.52. The Nasdaq composite rose 48.39 points, or 1 percent, to 4,765.10.

The gains put the Dow and S&P 500 back into the black for 2015.

Health care stocks and energy companies had some of the biggest gains.

Drug giant Pfizer said it would buy Hospira, a maker of injectable drugs, for \$90 a share in cash. The deal is the first by Pfizer since it walked away from a merger with AstraZeneca last year. Like many other large drug companies, Pfizer is trying to generate more sales as its blockbuster drugs go generic. Hospira soared \$22.84, or 35 percent, to \$87.62 and Pfizer rose 92 cents, or 3 percent, to \$32.99.

Oil also had a wild day.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$2.03 to settle at \$50.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, continuing a volatile ride that has lasted for several weeks. On Wednesday, oil plunged \$4.60, or 8.7 percent, to settle at \$48.45 a barrel the day before after the U.S. government reported an increase in crude inventories last week.

Few investors believe the turbulence in oil trading will end any time soon. While data earlier this week showed U.S. production is slowing, this week's crude oil inventory levels tell a different story.

"We're starting to see some production shifts, but it's happening slowly," Santos said. "Oil is going to keep making these big swings until something is done to deal with all this oversupply."

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, rose \$2.50 to \$56.66 a barrel in London. □



Traders Ryan Falvey, left, and Christopher Crotty on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market surged again on Thursday, putting the Dow Jones industrial average on track for its best week since 2011. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

erage on track for its best week since 2011.

Investors plowed money back into stocks follow-

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 200 points, its third big gain this week. The Dow is

nearly 3 percent.

"We've been returning to more normal volatility and this week is just the most re-

Pfizer buying pharmaceutical Hospira for \$15.23 billion

M. CHAPMAN

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pfizer is buying Hospira for approximately \$15.23 billion, saying it is a good fit with its established global pharmaceutical business.

The buyout will also help Pfizer tap into the growing market for biosimilars, which are cheaper versions of biologic drugs that are used to treat conditions such as anemia. Shares of both companies rose in morning trading

Thursday.

Hospira Inc., based in Lake Forest, Illinois, is a provider of injectable drugs and infusion technologies. It also offers biosimilars. Hospira announced last month that it was seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration for Retacrit, a proposed biosimilar to the anemia treatments Epogen from Amgen and Procrit from Janssen.

Pfizer Inc. will pay \$90 per share in cash, which is a 39

percent premium to Hospira's Wednesday closing price of \$64.80. The companies put the deal's value at about \$17 billion including debt.

Pfizer — which is the world's second-largest drugmaker by revenue — said Thursday that it will use its global network to help expand Hospira's reach to Europe and key emerging markets. Hospira's products are currently distributed mostly in the U.S.

Pfizer, a Dow component whose products include Viagra and painkiller Celebrex, has been under pressure from investors to boost its share price. The company has sold and spun off big parts of its business over the last few years, including animal health, nutrition and a capsule-making unit. This has helped, but hasn't satisfied detractors.

That's pushed CEO Ian Read to attempt Pfizer's oft-used strategy of doing big deals

to quickly boost revenue and cut costs. Analysts have said that since Pfizer's \$119 billion offer for Britain's AstraZeneca PLC was rejected last May it needed to find another big takeover target. Read previously said that he's open to any deals that boost value.

During a conference call on Thursday, Read said that it's still too early to talk about whether any assets will need to be divested to get the Hospira deal done. □

The Long-Run Cop-Out



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2015 New York Times

On Monday, President Barack Obama will call for a significant increase in spending, reversing the harsh cuts of the past few years. He won't get all he's asking for, but it's a move in the right direction. And it also marks a welcome shift in the discourse. Maybe Washington is starting to get over its narrow-minded, irresponsible obsession with long-run problems and will finally take on the hard issue of short-run gratification instead.

OK, I'm being flip to get your attention. I am, however, quite serious. It's often said that the problem with policymakers is that they're too focused on the next election, that they look for short-term fixes while ignoring the long run. But the story of economic policy and discourse these past five years has been exactly the opposite.

Think about it: Faced with mass unemployment and the enormous waste it entails, for years the Beltway elite devoted almost all their energy not to promoting recovery, but to Bowles-Simpsonism - to devising "grand bargains" that would address the supposedly urgent problem of how we'll pay for Social Security and Medicare a couple of decades from now.

And this bizarre long-termism isn't just an American phenomenon. Try to talk about the damage wrought by European austerity policies, and you're all too likely to encounter lectures to the effect that what we really need to discuss is long-term structural reform. Try to discuss Japan's effort to break out of its decades-long deflationary trap, and you're sure to encounter claims that monetary and fiscal policy are sideshows, and that deregulation and other structural changes are what's important.

Am I saying that the long run doesn't matter? Of course not, although some forms of long-termism don't make sense even on their own terms. Think about the notion that "entitlement reform" is an urgent priority. It's true that many projections suggest that our major social insurance programs will face financial difficulties in the future (although the dramatic slowing of increases in health costs makes even that proposition uncertain). If so, at some point we may need to cut benefits. But why, exactly, is it crucial that we deal with the

threat of future benefits cuts by locking in plans to cut future benefits?

Anyway, even where the long-term issues are real, it's truly strange that they have so often taken center stage in recent years. We are, after all, still living through the aftermath of a once-in-three-generations financial crisis. America seems, finally, to be recovering - but Bowles-Simpsonism had its greatest influence precisely when the U.S. economy was still mired in a deep slump. Europe has hardly recovered at all, and there's overwhelming evidence that austerity policies are the main reason for that ongoing disaster. So why the urge to change the subject to structural reform? The answer, I'd suggest, is intellectual laziness and lack of moral courage.

About laziness: Many people know what John Maynard Keynes said about the long run, but far fewer are aware of the context. Here's what he really said: "But this long run is a misleading guide to current affairs. In the long run we are all dead. Economists set themselves too easy, too useless a task if in tempestuous seasons they can only tell us that when the storm is long past the ocean is flat again."

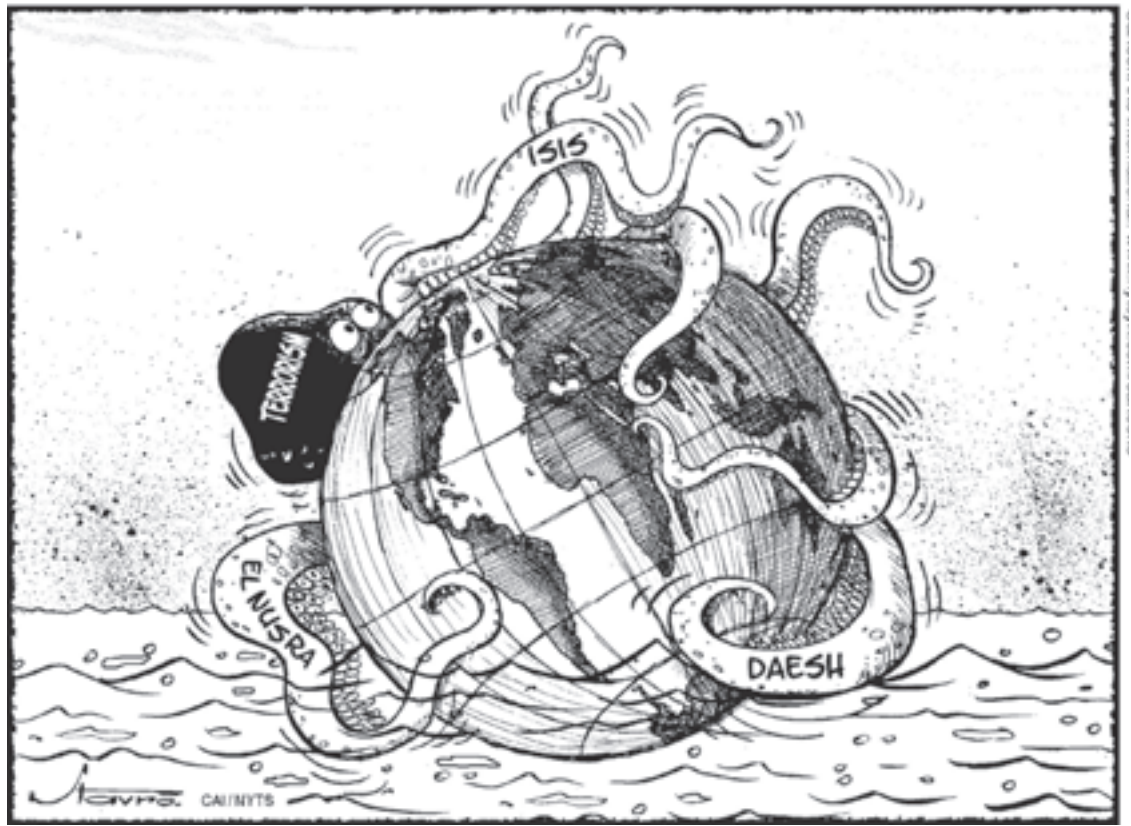
Quite. All too often, or so it seems to me, people who insist that questions of austerity and stimulus are unimportant are actually trying to avoid hard thinking about the nature of the economic disaster that has overtaken so much of the world.

And they're also trying to avoid taking a stand that will expose them to attack. Discussions of short-run fiscal and monetary policy are politically charged. Oppose austerity and support monetary expansion and you'll be lambasted by the right; do the reverse and you'll be criticized and maybe ridiculed by the left. I understand why it's tempting to dismiss the whole debate and declare that the really important issues involve the long run. But while people who say that kind of thing like to pose as brave and responsible, they're actually ducking the hard stuff - which is to say, being craven and irresponsible.

Which brings me back to the president's new budget.

It goes without saying that Obama's fiscal proposals, like everything he does, will be attacked by Republicans. He's also, however, sure to face criticism from self-proclaimed centrists accusing him of irresponsibly abandoning the fight against long-term budget deficits.

So it's important to understand who's really irresponsible here. In today's economic and political environment, long-termism is a cop-out, a dodge, a way to avoid sticking your neck out. And it's refreshing to see signs that Obama is willing to break with the long-termers and focus on the here and now. □



Building Better Secularists



DAVID BROOKS

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Over the past few years, there has been a sharp rise in the number of people who are atheist, agnostic or without religious affiliation. A fifth of all adults and a third of the youngest adults fit into this category.

As secularism becomes more prominent and self-confident, its spokesmen have more insistently argued that secularism should not be seen as an absence - as a lack of faith - but rather as a positive moral creed. Phil Zuckerman, a Pitzer College sociologist, makes this case as fluidly and pleasurably as anybody in his book, "Living the Secular Life."

Zuckerman argues that secular morality is built around individual reason, individual choice and individual responsibility. Instead of relying on some eye in the sky to tell them what to do, secular people reason their way to proper conduct.

Secular people, he argues, value autonomy over groupthink. They deepen their attachment to this world instead of focusing on a next one. They may not be articulate about why they behave as they do, he argues, but they try their best to follow the Golden Rule, to be considerate and empathetic toward others. "Secular morality hinges upon little else than not harming others and helping those in need," Zucker-

man writes.

As he describes them, secularists seem like genial, low-key people who have discarded metaphysical prejudices and are now leading peaceful and rewarding lives. But I can't avoid the conclusion that the secular writers are so eager to make the case for their creed, they are minimizing the struggle required to live by it. Consider the tasks a person would have to perform to live secularism well:

- Secular individuals have to build their own moral philosophies. Religious people inherit creeds that have evolved over centuries. Autonomous secular people are called upon to settle on their own individual sacred convictions.

- Secular individuals have to build their own communities. Religions come equipped with covenantal rituals that bind people together, sacred practices that are beyond individual choice. Secular people have to choose their own communities and come up with their own practices to make them meaningful.

- Secular individuals have to build their own Sabbaths. Religious people are commanded to drop worldly concerns. Secular people have to create their own set times for when to pull back and reflect on spiritual matters.

- Secular people have to fashion their own moral motivation. It's not enough to want to be a decent person. You have to be powerfully motivated to behave well. Religious people are motivated by their love for God and their fervent desire to please Him. Secularists have to come up with their own powerful drive that will compel sacrifice and service.

The point is not that secular people should become religious. You either believe in God or you don't. Neither is the point that religious people are better than secular people. That defies social science evidence and common observation. The point is that an age of mass secularization is an age in which millions of people have put unprecedented moral

burdens upon themselves. People who don't know how to take up these burdens don't turn bad, but they drift. They suffer from a loss of meaning and an unconscious boredom with their own lives.

- One other burden: Past secular creeds were built on the 18th-century enlightenment view of man as an autonomous, rational creature who could reason his way to virtue. The past half-century of cognitive science has shown that creature doesn't exist. We are not really rational animals; emotions play a central role in decision-making, the vast majority of thought is unconscious, and our minds are riddled with biases. We are not really autonomous; our actions are powerfully shaped by others in ways we are not even aware of.

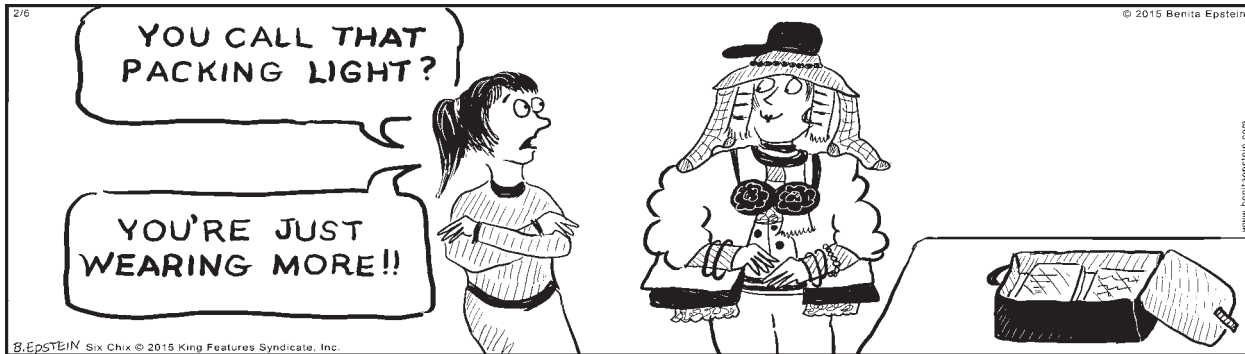
It seems to me that if secularism is going to be a positive creed, it can't just speak to the rational aspects of our nature. Secularism has to do for nonbelievers what religion does for believers - arouse the higher emotions, exalt the passions in pursuit of moral action. Christianity doesn't rely just on a mild feeling like empathy; it puts agape at the center of life, a fervent and selfless sacrificial love. Judaism doesn't just value community; it values a covenantal community infused with sacred bonds and chosenness that make the heart strings vibrate. Religions don't just ask believers to respect others; rather each soul is worthy of the highest dignity because it radiates divine light.

The only secularism that can really arouse moral motivation and impel action is an enchanted secularism, one that puts emotional relations first and autonomy second. I suspect that over the next years secularism will change its face and become hotter and more consuming, less content with mere benevolence, and more responsive to the spiritual urge in each of us, the drive for purity, self-transcendence and sanctification. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			9				6
				7			
		1		8		2	
			5		2		8
	9	2				3	6
7			6		4		
		8		2		9	
				6			
9					3		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

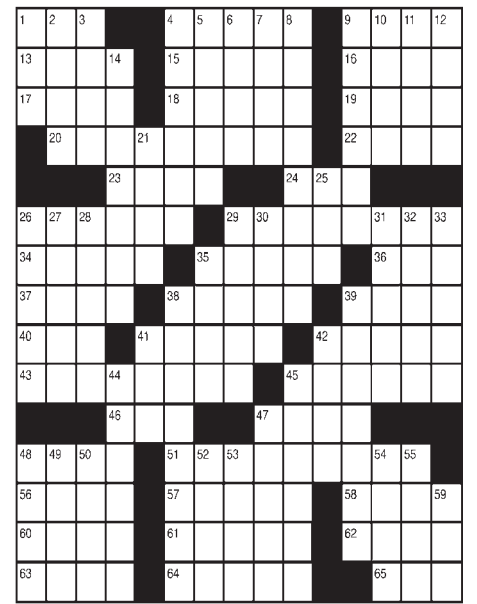
9	2	8	1	5	7	6	4	3
3	5	7	8	4	6	1	9	2
4	1	6	9	2	3	5	7	8
7	8	9	3	1	2	4	6	5
5	6	2	7	9	4	8	3	1
1	3	4	6	8	5	7	2	9
2	7	1	4	3	8	9	5	6
8	4	5	2	6	9	3	1	7
6	9	3	5	7	1	2	8	4

ACROSS

- Boys named for their fathers: abbr.
- Deep audible breaths
- crackers; saltines
- Lubricates
- Thief
- Passionate
- Radar screen image
- Jewish leader
- Repair
- Book learning
- "It's no business except mine"
- Record
- Org. for Bucks and Bulls
- Smarts; hurts
- Turn off
- Bert's buddy
- Rough woolen coat fabric
- Pigsty
- Slender in build
- Piece of dining room furniture
- Talk casually
- Be dishonest
- Wharves
- Idaho's capital
- Overexerted oneself
- Kindle user
- Comfy room
- Cauldrons
- Additionally
- Like the feats of a gymnast
- Like pricey hamburger
- Native New Zealander
- Resound
- Epiphany visitors
- Frequently
- Genuine
- Group baths
- Has to have
- Ike's initials

DOWN

- Occupation
- Apple pie spice



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/6/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

TOTS	BOARD	CHAR
AHOT	OUTER	RAKE
MIRE	GRETA	ITIS
SOOTHES	AILMENT	
SAY	MINUS	
DEPOT	PIN	NOSES
IRON	BAN	MANAGE
ARK	CADAVER	BYA
NEEDED	RAN	KEPT
ADDED	SET	DARTS
PETIT	HUM	
PAGODAS	TADPOLE	
AWES	UTTER	APES
CANE	NERDS	LEAP
EYED	TRASH	ANDY

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2/6/15

- Roller ; thrilling ride
- Dessert choice
- Alpha's follower
- Handsome young man
- Songbirds
- Tis of ; over;
- Charitable gift
- Jump
- Long story
- Lunch spot
- Learn by ; memorize
- Frosted
- Actor Everett
- Bullfight cheer

Classifieds

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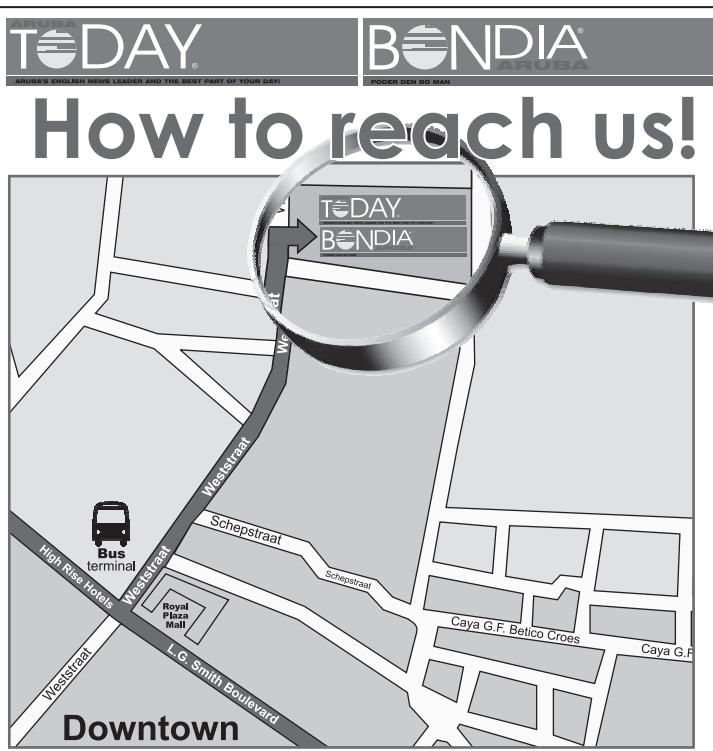
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24/7

Brazil scientists fear golden mussel threat to Amazon River

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

The world's mightiest waterway, the Amazon River, is threatened by the most diminutive of foes — a tiny mussel invading from China.

Since hitching its way to South America in the early 1990s, the golden mussel has claimed new territory at alarming speeds, plowing through indigenous flora and fauna as it has spread to waters in five countries. Now, scientists fear the invasive species could make a jump into the Amazon, threatening one of the world's unique ecological systems.

"There's no doubt the environmental effect would be dramatic," said Marcia Divina de Oliveira, a scientist with the Brazilian government's Embrapa research agency.

The golden mussel, which commonly grows to no more than an inch in length, is a hardy breeder, reproducing nine months a year by releasing clouds of microscopic larvae that float with the current to new territories. They attach to hard surfaces like river bedrock, stones, man-

made structures and even each other, forming large reef-like structures.

They have devastated native clam species by attaching themselves onto the local mollusks, sealing

them out with chemical drips or shut down turbines to scrape out giant mussel formations.

Golden mussels are filter-feeders, sucking in water and filtering out plankton

humans.

While the thriving mussel colonies can mean more food for local fish and ducks, the disruption of the food chain can upset local systems, said Hugh Ma-

natural cycles of rising and falling oxygen levels have kept the population in check so far.

But, the Pantanal is just 1,200 miles (2,000 kilometers) away from waters linked to the Amazon, and scientists fear that a boat towed overland could carry the invasive species clinging to a hull or that the ballast water used to stabilize a vessel could be contaminated by mussel larvae.

"If you just have a liter (of water) down in the bottom of a boat and put it on a trailer and travel over land to a new river system, you could be injecting potentially hundreds or even thousands of microscopic larvae into a new water body," said Steve Hamilton, an ecology professor at Michigan State University.

Brazil's government has been working to stop the golden mussel's progress for a decade, requiring ships headed to Brazilian ports to stop at least 200 miles off the coast and empty the ballast waters while far at sea. But experts complain the measure is spottily enforced.

One of Brazil's top experts on the mussel, a 27-year-old doctoral student at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, believes she may have another solution: mapping the mussel's genome and engineering a virus or other "bio bullet" that could render the species infertile. The idea is similar to efforts to combat dengue-transmitting mosquitoes by making them sterile.

"If we manage it, it would be huge obviously from an economic point of view but also to protect biodiversity," said researcher Marcela Uliano da Silva.



In this Jan. 29, 2015 photo, Brazilian researcher Marcela Uliano da Silva tweezes a golden mussel out of its shell at the Carlos Chagas Filho Biophysics Institute, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

made structures and even each other, forming large reef-like structures. They have devastated native clam species by attaching themselves onto the local mollusks, sealing

them shut. Their ability to clog pipes has forced operators of hydroelectric and water treatment plants in Sao Paulo state, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and elsewhere to spend millions of dollars annually to clear

Associated Press
clsaac, a professor at the University of Windsor, in Ontario, Canada, who studies invasive aquatic species.

"You clearly want to keep these out of the Amazon because if they were to get in, the potential consequences are very significant," said MacIsaac. "The key right now is you have to shut the door to make sure they can't spread further."

Researchers compare the golden mussel to the zebra mussel, a small bivalve originally from the Caucasus that colonized the Great Lakes in North America in the late 1980s before spreading down the Mississippi River.

The advance of the golden mussels appears to have stalled at the sweeping Pantanal wetlands system in western Brazil, where

U.N. weather agency says 2014 hottest year

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The U.N. weather agency says 2014 was the warmest year on record, though the temperature difference with 2010 and 2005 is so small that it's impossible to say for sure which of the three years was the hottest.

The World Meteorological Organization's analy-

sis Monday mirrored findings two weeks ago by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and also included data from the Met Office in Britain.

The Geneva-based WMO said surface temperatures were 0.57 C (1.03 F) above average last year.

That's slightly warmer than 2010 and 2005, but the difference was within the uncertainty margin of 0.10 C (0.18 F).

With 14 of the 15 hottest years recorded this century, WMO chief Michel Jarraud said warming is expected to continue as atmospheric levels of heat-trapping CO2 rise.

Jarecki's 'Jinx': documentary for binge-watching generation

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Filmmaker Andrew Jarecki says "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst," his story of a New Yorker with privilege who's free despite suspicions of his involvement in three murders, may be the first documentary created for the binge watcher.

Durst's tale begins unspooling Sunday (8 p.m. EST) on HBO and continues for five more weekly episodes. More than a murder mystery, the absorbing series reveals a strange but smart man who's long feuded with his wealthy family.

"The story is so operatic," Jarecki said.

"That's what's so fascinating to me — seeing someone who is born to such privilege and years later is living in a \$300-a-month rooming house in Galveston, Texas, disguised as a mute woman."

Durst, 71, has never been charged in connection with the 1982 disappearance of his wife, Kathie, or in the unsolved 2000 murder of his friend, Susan Berman, in Beverly Hills, California. He was acquitted in the 2001 dismemberment death of his Galveston neighbor, Morris Black, because he said the killing was in self-defense.

Jarecki told a Hollywood version of Durst's story in the 2010 film that starred Ryan Gosling, "All Good Things." A week before the film's release, Durst called and said he wanted to see it. Apparently impressed, Durst agreed to be interviewed about his life by Jarecki and partner Marc Smerling. Once done, Jarecki wasn't sure what to do with the footage. He showed portions of the interview to Diane Sawyer and her late husband, Mike Nichols, who suggested it made for another movie when coupled with an investigation into Durst's claims. Jarecki made a rough cut of a four-hour film, and still had friends curious about things left out. So he settled on the documentary series, reasoning



In this Jan. 28, 2015 file photo, filmmaker Andrew Jarecki attends the HBO documentary series premiere of "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst" at the Time Warner Building in New York. Associated Press

viewers in a binge-watching era have the ability to dive deeply into a story. Jarecki constructs it as a journey of discovery for viewers as it was for him.

"I did come to a firm conclusion" about Durst's guilt or innocence, he said. "When you watch the six episodes, I think you'll get to the end and you'll know what happened."

HBO distributed the first two episodes in advance, and it quickly made news with Durst's admission that he lied to investigators about what he did on the night of his wife's disappearance. Jarecki wants to avoid spoiling the experience, so it was quickly decided to keep the last four episodes under wraps.

Durst has seen interview footage but not the completed series.

"A lot of it he is going to love, because he hasn't had the chance to show his version of it so far," Jarecki said. "The fact that his brother has reacted so violently is something that he is enjoying, because he thinks his brother has marginalized him in a way that is wrong."

The poisonous relationship between Robert Durst and his younger brother, Douglas, plays out both in the film and in its offscreen

preparations.

Robert Durst was supposed to become the leader of his father Seymour Durst's multi-billion dollar New York real estate empire but Robert's strange behavior led his father, before his death,

to put Douglas in charge. The offspring have a sibling rivalry writ large. Douglas has talked openly of his fear that Robert will kill him. Robert calls his brother a wimp.

Jarecki said he tried mul-

tiple times to interview Douglas for "The Jinx," but was turned down. Through his lawyer, Charles Moerdler, Douglas wouldn't talk with The Associated Press.

In an interview that ran in The New York Times on Jan. 1, Douglas Durst said he was concerned the film gives his brother "a megaphone to spout his lies and his distortions about my father, about his relationship to the family and about the family's history."

Moerdler said Douglas wouldn't be interviewed for the film because Jarecki would not show him his work in advance. The lawyer said he believes that Jarecki drew from deposition material that was supposed to be kept confidential; Jarecki said there's nothing in the film he and HBO could not support legally.

"As much as Doug Durst would like people to think we're making a propaganda piece, I think the reason that he's upset is because we're not," he said. □

\$7.3M award owed to woman who discovered Lady Gaga upheld

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— A federal judge in New Jersey has upheld a \$7.3 million award owed by Lady Gaga's first producer and former boyfriend to the Hollywood songwriter with whom he promised to split profits for discovering her.

U.S. District Court Judge Jose Linares ruled Wednesday against producer Rob Fusari's argument to reduce the amount a jury last year awarded to Wendy Starland.



In this Dec. 7, 2014 file photo, Lady Gaga attends the 37th Annual Kennedy Center Honors at The Kennedy Center Hall of States in Washington.

Associated Press

Clive Davis: He's praying for Whitney Houston's daughter

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Clive Davis says he's been in touch with Whitney Houston's family and is praying for her daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown.

Davis, who was Houston's mentor, said in an interview Thursday that he's "offered my support and prayers and they're so grateful." Police said the 21-year-old daughter of Houston and R&B singer Bobby Brown

was taken to a hospital Saturday after she was found unresponsive in a bathtub in a suburban Atlanta town house. A statement from the Houston family this week said she was fighting for her life. □



This Sept. 11, 2012 file image released by Starpix shows Brian Williams at the Cantor Fitzgerald Charity Day event in New York. Associated Press

NBC anchor Brian Williams apologizes for false Iraq story

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Williams, a top American network news anchor, apologized Wednesday for incorrectly claiming as recently as last week that he rode on a helicopter that came under enemy fire when he was reporting in Iraq in 2003.

Instead, the NBC "Nightly News" anchor said, he was in another helicopter trailing a Chinook that actually was hit. He apologized on "Nightly News" for getting it wrong.

The embarrassing admission came after a story in the Stars & Stripes newspaper pointed out the discrepancy. Williams had made the claim on the air last Friday during a story about Tim Terpak, an Army officer who he had be-

friendened when Terpak was assigned to protect the NBC crew.

Williams reported on "Nightly News" that he had gone with Terpak to a New York Rangers hockey game. They were introduced to the audience by the public address announcer, who also repeated the claim that Williams' helicopter had been hit.

"This was a bungled attempt by me to thank one special veteran and by extension our brave military men and women, veterans everywhere, those who have served while I did not," Williams said on the air Wednesday. "I hope they know they have my greatest respect and also now my apology."

Stars & Stripes quoted Lance Reynolds, the flight engineer on the crew that

rode with Williams, as saying that "it felt like a personal experience that someone else wanted to participate in and didn't deserve to participate in."

The newspaper said Williams' helicopter traveled about an hour behind the aircraft that actually took fire.

In a Facebook response to service members who had pointed out the mistake, Williams said that "I spent much of the weekend thinking I'd gone crazy."

NBC noted that a "Dateline NBC" story in 2003 correctly reported that Williams learned after his helicopter had landed that "the Chinook ahead of us was almost blown out of the sky."

Williams said he also wrote about the incident correctly in 2008. □

Kodak to continue making movie film, supplying Hollywood

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

ROCHESTER, New York (AP) — The Eastman Kodak Co. will continue to make motion picture film in the age of digital filmmaking after reaching new supply agreements with the major Hollywood studios.

The Rochester-based photography and film pioneer had been in talks with the studios, as well as several filmmakers including Quentin Tarantino, Judd Apatow and Christopher Nolan, to keep movie film alive after seeing sales fall 96 percent since 2006.

The agreements announced late Wednesday call for Kodak to continue to supply motion picture film to 20th Century Fox, Walt Disney Co., Warner Bros. Entertainment, NBC Universal, Paramount Pictures and Sony Pictures. Without the pacts, production of motion picture film, which Kodak began in 1896, was in danger of being halted.

Competitor Fujifilm stopped production of movie film in 2013.

"Film has long been — and will remain — a vital part of our culture," Kodak Chief Executive Jeff Clarke said in a statement. "With the support of the studios, we will continue to provide motion picture film, with its unparalleled richness and unique textures, to enable filmmakers to tell their stories and demonstrate their art."

Details of the agreements were not released but cover multiple years, according to Kodak.

Three of this year's eight best-picture Oscar nominees — "Boyhood," "The Grand Budapest Hotel," and "The Imitation Game" — were shot on Kodak film, Kodak spokesman Christopher Veronda said.

Several movies due out this year, including "Mission: Impossible 5" and "Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens," are being produced on film, Kodak said.

"Enabling artists to use film will help them to create the moments that make cinema history," said Andrew Even-ski, Kodak's president of Entertainment & Commercial Films. "The agreements announced today are a powerful testament to the power of film and the creative vision of the artists telling them."

Founded by George Eastman in 1880, Kodak is credited with popularizing photography at the start of the 20th century, but its revenues today are primarily from commercial imaging. Film now provides less than 10 percent of company revenues. □

Singer Gary Glitter convicted of sex crimes from the 1970's



British pop star Gary Glitter, real name Paul Gadd, arrives at Southwark Crown Court in London, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A British jury on Thursday convicted former glam rock singer Gary Glitter of a string of sex abuse offenses against three young girls in the 1970s.

The 70-year-old Glitter, whose real name is Paul Gadd, was found guilty of one count of attempted rape, four counts of indecent assault, and one

count of sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 13.

"Paul Gadd has shown himself to be a habitual sexual predator who took advantage of the star status afforded to him by targeting young girls who trusted him and were in awe of his fame," Det. Chief Insp. Michael Orchard said.

Orchard added that Glit-

ter's "lack of remorse and defense that the victims were lying makes his crimes all the more indefensible."

Glitter was convicted by a jury of five men and seven women at a London court after a two-week trial. He blew kisses to a public gallery full of reporters as he was remanded in custody. He will be sentenced on Feb. 27. The maximum sentence in Britain for unlawful sex with a minor is life imprisonment.

The singer was arrested in October 2012 under Operation Yewtree, the national investigation that police launched in the wake of a child abuse scandal surrounding the late BBC entertainer Jimmy Savile.

Glitter's career peaked in the early 1970s. He is best known for "Rock & Roll (Part 2)," a hit in both the U.S. and Britain. He fell into disgrace after being convicted and imprisoned on child abuse charges in Vietnam. □

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